

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 INT-08 AID-20 CEQ-02

COA-02 COME-00 EB-11 EPA-04 IO-14 L-03 NSF-04 NSC-07

PM-07 SCI-06 SS-20 FEA-02 FPC-01 DRC-01 /172 W

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3283

INFO AMCONSUL VANCOUVER UNN

UNCLAS OTTAWA 1205

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, CA

SUBJECT: SKAGIT RIVER

1. APRIL 24 GLOBE AND MAIL PUBLISHED ARTICLE ENTITLED
"HEARINGS ON FLOODING PLAN OPEN IN U.S. - DON'T SELL SKAGIT
FOR A MESS OF WATTAGE, CANADIANS SAY." (FULL TEXT BY POUCH
TO EUR/CAN).

2. ARTICLE REVIEWED BACKGROUND OF SKAGIT RIVER-ROSS DAM
PROBLEM AND THEN ASKED: "CAN A GROUP OF CONSERVATIONISTS
PERSUADE A U.S. AGENCY TO SAVE A PRETTY CANADIAN VALLEY
AND REJECT A BID FOR MORE POWER FOR THE ENERGY-SHORT PACIFIC
NORTHWEST? 'I DOUBT IT,' SAID KEN FARQUHARSON, SECRETARY
OF THE (ROSS) COMMITTEE... 'BUT THIS IS THE LAST PUBLIC
CHANCE WE HAVE OF SHOWING CANADIAN OPPOSITION TO THE RAISING
OF THE DAM'".

3. ARTICLE REPORTED THE BRITISH COLUMBIA WANTS THE
IJC TO RECONSIDER THE 1941 AGREEMENT THAT AUTHORIZED
THE FLOODING, BUT "THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
SAYS THAT TURNING THE PROBLEM OVER TO THE IJC WOULD
LEAD TO THE UNITED STATES ASKING FOR OTHER IJC DECISIONS
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FAVORING CANADA TO BE REOPENED."

4. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, "MR. FARQUHARSON SAID THE VALLEY COULD BE SAVED BY A POWER TRADE-OFF... HE SUGGESTED RAISING A NEW DAM ON THE PEND-D'OREILLE RIVER PROPOSED BY BC HYDRO BY 17 FEET ABOVE ITS PLANNED 200 FEET HEIGHT. THIS WOULD COST A FURTHER \$8 MILLION BUT IT WOULD INCREASE THE POWER AVAILABLE BY 50 PERCENT.

"THE IRONIC TWIST TO THIS PLAN IS THAT THE PEND-D'OREILLE FLOWS FROM WASHINGTON INTO BRITISH COLUMBIA AND WOULD BACK WATER INTO THE UNITED STATES.

"EVEN IF THIS POWER TRADE WERE ACCEPTED IT WOULD GO AGAINST B.C. GOVERNMENT POLICY OF OVER-THE-BORDER SALES OF ELECTRICITY. NOT ALL THE CONSERVATIONISTS APPEARING HERE THINK THIS IS A GOOD IDEA."

5. ARTICLE CONCLUDED BY QUOTING SIERRA CLUB MEMBER AS SAYING, "THESE FPC HEARINGS AREN'T REALLY PUBLIC... I THINK THE CANADIAN PEOPLE ARE GOING TO (BELIEVE) WE HAVEN'T HAD A FAIR HEARING AND ARE GOING TO GET SHAFTED."
PORTER

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NNN

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